

League action	Results
1 Dec 1934. Offer of arbitration.	Rejected by Italy.
2 Jan-Feb 1935. Debate in response to Abyssinian request for assistance.	No further action.
3 May-Sept 1935. Five-power commission on Abyssinia.	Abyssinia rejected proposals.
4 Oct 1935	Little impact. Sanctions did not include oil, iron, steel and coal. Non-League members eg, the USA and Germany, continued to trade with Italy.
5 March 1936. Threatened oil embargo on Italy.	No impact. Italians conquered Abyssinia. United it with Somaliland and Eritrea as Italian East Africa. Hitler
6 June 1936. Haile Selassie addressed Assembly calling for League assistance against Italian aggression	a noted League weakness b re-militarized the Rhineland (March 1936) while attention was on Abyssinia.
7 July 1936. Sanctions against Italy abandoned.	Italy a kept Abyssinia b turned to Germany c left the League (1937).

Why did the League fail?

- 1 Successful action against Italy depended on Britain and France, but they were unwilling to take strong measures because:
  - a they feared Mussolini might attack anyone who enforced economic sanctions and they were not ready for a war with Italy. They did not, therefore, cut off Mussolini's military lifeline by closing the Suez Canal to Italian oil supplies.
  - b they were frightened by the rise of Hitler's Germany (see pages 34-35). They wanted to keep Italy as ally against Germany and so were anxious not to offend Mussolini.
- 2 The attempt by Britain and France to find their own compromise solution to the crisis with the Hoare-Laval Plan (1935) disunited and weakened the League.

Long-term results

- 1 Countries lost faith in the League and its ideals.
  - 2 Rather than put their trust in international co-operation, several countries including France and Britain began to rearm.
- 1 Why did economic sanctions against Italy fail, 1935-36?
  - 2 What did the crisis in Abyssinia reveal about the weakness of the League of Nations?
  - 3 What were the a short-term b long-term consequences of the League's failure in Abyssinia?